

WRESTLING FORUM

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VOLUME 5

ISSUE 2

WRESTLING'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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JUST ONE SMALL CORRECTION...

I need to make a quick correction from last issue. We had Vince McMahon listed as the Man of the Year. After I started typing the results for the yearbook, I discovered I had made a mistake in computing the number of points for that entire category. All of the other winners were fine, but the Wrestling Forum **MAN OF THE YEAR** is **RIC FLAIR** with 55 points. We regret any inconveniences.

In the meantime, welcome to another edition of Wrestling Forum, possibly the only bulletin in the world that is being typed one handed. We publish on the 15th and 30th of each month and mail the following day. Rates are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for up to six months at any one time. All renewals, letters to the editor, results, features, and anything else, unless specifically noted should be sent to **BOX 65, KNOXVILLE, IL 61448**.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WONDERING ABOUT the one handed comment, I had a severe muscle pull in my right arm last summer and spent six weeks off work. The muscle evidently didn't heal right and it's been getting worse in the last few weeks. The doctor finally decided to put it in a cast to make sure I didn't move my elbow (like he had been telling me not to do). The cast runs from my knuckles to my shoulder and the arm is bent at a 90° angle and it's very hard to type with it (let alone write down results or other stuff that's phoned in). The only reason I bring it up is so if there are a lot of typos or something that you can't read, just realize it could be worse...I could be writing this thing by hand.

IT IS TAKING A LITTLE LONGER to type the bulletin and the progress on the yearbook has been slowed down quite a bit as well... But as promised, here are the details on the yearbook:

This year's version will contain the complete results of our year end balloting along with a special feature on the decade end balloting that we did earlier. There will also be a composite Wrestling Barometer for the year, a list of title defenses by each of the three major champions, unofficial awards as done by our readers, a statistical look at the average Wrestling Forum reader, a month by month look at the major headlines, Ed Garea's Phanny awards along with an article covering the eighties by Ed, Sean, Jeff and myself (individual articles by each, I mean), plus some miscellaneous stuff.

THE MAIN FEATURE ARTICLE WILL be a reprint of what was probably the best article ever done for us called **A WEEK WITH THE FED**, a jobber's experience of working for Titan for a week. In addition to that will be the long awaited sequel **WEEK WITH THE FED PART II** which covers his second shot with the WWF plus some updates on his career (while still remaining anonymous of course). Part II isn't as good as Part I but still sheds some interesting light on what it's actually like to be on the road as a wrestler.

WE'RE GUESSING THAT THE YEARBOOK will be between 115-130 pages when finished. Depending on space restrictions, there are some other features we can stick in as well. As in the past, the book will be spiral bound. Price is \$12.50 per copy unless you have a discount coupon (those were mailed out to those who participated in either the year end balloting or the decade end balloting). This includes the first class postage to get it back to you. The yearbook should be ready somewhere around February 20-25.

When ordering the yearbook, please make out a separate check if you are renewing at the same time. Checks for the yearbook will not be cashed until it's time to pay for the printing, that way, if something should happen that it cannot be published, I'll just send your check back. We will only be printing up 150 copies this year, so you should order your right away (the printer will only do multiples of 25 for some reason). With that, let's get on with the news....

The Wrestling Barometer

January, 1990

Welcome to the January edition of the *Wrestling Barometer* -- the monthly census of what's hot and what's not found exclusively each month in *Wrestling Forum*.

The first *Barometer* of the nineties interestingly enough serves to re-emphasize those trends that established themselves in the mid-eighties -- and then hung on to gain prominence as the professional wrestling "trend-setters" of the decade just concluded. They include an extra-strong performance by the *Titaniates* on the down side and the upside domination of potentially the 1980's two hottest "acts", at least by insider standards.

As always, we begin with a quick review of the *Barometer* point scoring system: Five points are awarded for a first-place vote; three points for a second-place vote; one point for a third-place vote; and one-half point for every item that is included on the list from fourth place on. Finally, a minimum point total is arbitrarily decided upon so that we can focus on the month's major trends.

With that, let's take a look at the January *Barometer*:

WHAT'S HOT

(needed to qualify: 15 points)

- 1) Resurgence of **FOUR HORSEMAN** angle (47 points)
- 2) **CORNETTE's** "Power Hour" announcing (29 1/2 points)
- 3) **BOSSMAN's** babyface turn (17 1/2 points)

WHAT'S NOT

(needed to qualify: 15 points)

- 1) **TITAN's** PPV "maneuverings" (55 1/2 points)
- 2) **SAPPHIRE** as **DUSTY's** manager angle (49 1/2 points)
- 3) **COLOSSAL CONNECTION** as WWF tag champs (30 1/2 points)
- 4) The **ROYAL RUMBLE** (18 points)
- 5) Return of the **ROCK & ROLL EXPRESS** (15 1/2 points)

Notes: As indicated, almost a clean sweep for Vince and his boys on the "Not" side of the ledger. It's kind of ironic that only **Ricky** and **Robert** stood between **Junior** and such a dubious accomplishment -- specially when you remember that he once coveted the teen idols....Second month in a row that **Jim Cornette** finishes right near the top of the "Hot" list....**Corny** is joined there by the strong first place finish by the return of the **Horseman** angle. Not the first time that a **Horseman**-related qualifier has fared extremely well (not by a longshot) and, when you consider what's on the horizon, it shouldn't be the last....No surprise that the **Colossal Connection's** going over like a colossal dud (gold watches rarely go over well as a retirement gift, either), or that the colossal **Sapphire** is being met with an equal amount of rejection on these pages....

The deadline for the February *Barometer* ballots is February 21. As always, entries and related comments should be sent to:

JEFF SIEGEL
P.O. Box 5461
Evanston, IL 60204

LARRY ZBYSSKO'S FIRST (AND POSSIBLY LAST) title defense took place this past Saturday in Philadelphia against David Sammartino. Zbyszko was seconded by Paul E Dangerously on this show that was billed as a Supercard of Independents. Joel Goodhart was the promoter. Zbyszko is not slated to defend the title again until 2/10 when he will go against Tatsumi Fujinami in Japan. We speculated last time that he would lose the title there and nothing has been said or done that changes our mind.

I'VE GOTTEN A FEW REPORTS THAT THE AWA tried a broadcast on the New England Sports Channel that didn't have announcers. One report said it was intentional and a couple others speculated that it was just the AWA's total incompetence. I'll give you two guess as to what I think.

SINCE THE AWA IS RUNNING BASICALLY only one show a month, they are taking an active role in trying to find regular work for their wrestlers. They have contacted virtually every independent in attempts to book wrestlers such as Tommy Jammer, Paul Diamond, the Trooper and others. Evidently Jonnie Stewart has fallen into poor graces because he is never mentioned to the independents. Good thing the guy is really independently wealthy.

I TALKED WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN and still is very close to the Gagne family for years and he tells me Verne has no intention of folding the AWA. Verne is wringing every cent he can out of the ESPN contract and will until it runs out. Verne has told this source that if he has to put together four hours worth of training school matches, that's what he'll do to satisfy the contract.

ASSORTED TIDBITS

A NEW INDEPENDENT IN THE CAROLINAS is making noises about becoming the third major promotion in the country. Nelson Royal and George Scott are two of the three names involved in the front office (Can't recall the third). Already they claim they have Ricky Steamboat, Nikita Koloff, Paul Jones, Ivan Koloff and Tim Horner with more to follow from both the WWF and NWA.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, THEY HAVEN'T RUN ANY shows yet, but they claim they have cleared a dozen or so TV stations and should be under way with TV tapings with in the next month or so. To wrestlers, they are billing themselves as an alternative to the NWA or WWF and are trying to appeal to those who are dissatisfied for one reason or another.

NOT A SINGLE WORD OUT OF WINDY CITY since the show before Christmas when their title changed hands. No one seems to know when or if their next show is scheduled.

KNOXVILLE NOW 18-1 for those of you keeping track.
Three year record stands at 69-7.

Pencil Points

TITAN BABYFACES

I wanted to add some comments to the discussion of the #2 babyface in the WWF assuming Warrior turns heel. Of the four mentioned, Vince could be in big trouble here, but I have a feeling they're going to turn Warrior back real quick after Wrestlemania VI. Of the four, here's my impression:

1. Rhodes - will never cut it. Is perceived as a clown by the fans. His ringwork is abysmal, even by WWF standards. He proved he can't draw already. While Vince could stick him in, and Dusty no doubt thinks he can get the job done, the box office will suffer for it.

2. Roberts - has a great persona, but doesn't work a good match. Can at times, but just has a boring style. Probably won't draw any better than he does now. Major plus is his interviews. His problems in Florida could give him major problems.

3. Bossman - I just don't see this guy getting over as a face. Does this man look like a good guy to you? I see him as Vince trying to create another Sgt. Slaughter, but those days are over. Might draw well for a time, but I doubt it. Interviews are not that strong, and his ringwork, while good for a big man, is not exceptional either.

4. Piper - the guy who deserves it and could do the job, at any other time. However, Piper is still reeling from the injuries he suffered in late September and the hard work schedule and specially the double shots have completely obliterated him physically. The neverending feud with Rude has stagnated him, and being off Prime Time Wrestling won't help unless he gets the Pit back. Interviews are excellent, and his face persona is good, but still shines as a heel. Not on friendly terms with the front office. Would not bet my life savings Piper is going to make it much past WM6. Ring work right now is not good, though he can pull himself together for the big shows as he did at WM3. Unless Piper takes a significant period of time off to heal up, he's in deep trouble, as he can't even walk well, let alone work in the ring.

Hogan seems to have fallen off a bit as to drawing power of late, even with Hennig working hard. I expect the grooming of Warrior to take Hogan's position beginning the end of this year. Still, I don't think Warrior is their long term savior as a draw, not unless he improves his interviews and his working ability to be at least on par with Hogan.

-TERESA DEMARIE-

-Tuckahoe, NY-

ROYAL RUMBLE

The Royal Rumble was an entertaining card with some good action and the start of some new feuds. The two stars of the night were the Big Bossman and Ted DiBiase. Bossman put on an awesome performance especially when one considers that he was injured and unable to wrestle about ten days prior to the Rumble. DiBiase was the standout in the Royal Rumble by setting a record in staying in for such a long period of time. And, this was probably the only time that it came as a surprise when Hulk Hogan won.

The Savage Rhodes feud should answer the question of whether Rhodes can draw as a main eventer in the WWF. Personally, I think it will be about the same as the Duggan-Savage feud with nobody caring a whole lot about it. But, the biggie which will culminate at Wrestlemania VI should do record setting business. This will be the first time since Andre's challenge at Wrestlemania III that casual fans will feel Hogan has a legitimate chance of dropping the strap.

-JOE MANNION-

-Prospect Park, PA-

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mission: RINGSIDE

DATELINE: January 25, 1990

8:00 am...Anticipation is mounting as tickets for the 2/23 MAIN EVENT in Detroit go on sale in two hours. The excitement is so thick, you could cut it with a - well, you know the story. The WWF is not exactly my favorite, but the thought of being on NBC LIVE is too much to pass up.

I have a tough task ahead of me. Since our car is, shall we say, out of commission, I must take the bus. And look outside - it's pouring! Yes, RAIN. Wait - isn't this Michigan? Isn't this January?

9:05 am...After waiting in the rain, I finally board the bus. Because of the schedule, I won't arrive at the Ticketmaster outlet until around 9:30. Sit back and enjoy the ride.

9:32 am...Finally here, except that they don't open until 10:00. Ugh. Sit back and enjoy the looks on people's faces as they pass you, giving you a look that says "you must be a wrestling fan or something."

10:01 am..."You got 3rd row." Ugh. Not bad, though. I still look forward to it even though it IS the WWF. Mission accomplished? I'll let you know February 24...

-MARK BENNETT-

-Jackson, MI-

P.S. I'm looking for readers who will be attending the 2/23 Main Event and would like to meet before or after the event to talk wrestling or whatever, They can call me at (517) 788-8223. Mark Bennett.

AWARDS REVISITED

I guess we can safely assume the writer of last month's letter regarding inside fans voting on awards didn't win one himself. Sounds like sour grapes to me.

-ERIC HOYME-

-Indianapolis, IN-

It's hard for me to believe that someone in wrestling actually exists that believes the way the wrestler who wrote last issue does. According to him, I'm not entitled to my own opinions. Neither is anyone else who's a fan. And you, Jon do not have the right to compile those opinions. I look for his name to be revealed in this month's Dipstick of the Month. He's got my vote...oops...I'm not allowed to vote.

-KEN SNIDER-

-Waukegan, IL-

...He's wrong. Wrestlers, managers, announcers and promoters enjoy reading the year end awards. We may not agree, but everyone's opinion is at least read.

-NAME WITHHELD-

-Memphis, TN-

NWA

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THINGS ARE GEARING UP FOR THE CLASH OF Champions X from Corpus Christie TX on 2/6 and the Pay Per View on 2/25 from Greensboro. There are so many possible angles and combinations come PPV day that it would almost be impossible to go into here (be assured that if I run long on space, I will, however). In the meantime, let's look at the other news first.

CACTUS JACK MANSON HAS BEEN PRACTICING for another line of work while he wrestles. We understand that he would like to become a kamakazie pilot and from his work of late, he would be very good at it. This weekend, he had a match against Steve Williams with some of the craziest stuff you've ever seen a wrestler do. He did a Ric Flair flip over the crowd control barrier, got suplexed over the same barrier onto the arena floor and got press slammed, again outside the ring. I'm told that DC Drake has a dream of taking the ultimate bump. He wants to be piledriven THROUGH a scaffold above the ring and down to the ring itself. Trouble is, he can't find anyone willing to do the thing with him (his "opponet" would have to take the bump on his rear end). Hey DC, I think I know where you can find someone that crazy.

SCREW UP TIME: WE DON'T KNOW WHO goofed up, but when the NWA showed up at Center Stage on 1/16 to tape two weeks worth of TV, they found the building was closed so that some renovations could be made. The taping was hurriedly moved to Huntsville, AL the next night which made some fans a little upset. They had planned on a regular NWA show and were treated to a taping that seemed to last forever with endless squash matches. Fortunately, the quality of matches was improved from a regular TV taping with squashes like the one we just mentioned involving Cactus Jack and Steve Williams, so everyone left relatively happy. Panic set in in the front office because despite everything they shot before Christmas, they didn't have one single thing in the can that hadn't already been seen.

THE US TAG TEAM TITLE IS GOING TO be decided with a tournament which starts next week on the World Wide show. There will be eight teams with the first round match ups being the Dudes vs the MOD Squad and Zenk/Pillman vs Royal Family. Other teams in the tournament will be The Rock & Roll Excess, the Midnight Express, Freebirds, and one other that has not been announced (or mentioned) yet..

RUMORS CONTINUE TO MAKE THE ROUNDS that Terry Gordy is coming in. Michael Hayes had made veiled references that he and Jimmy Jam (as opposet to Buddy Jack) are not the only Freebirds. Add that to the fact that Gordy was seen at the failed Center Stage tapings and you can see how the rumor is gaining credibility. I have heard nothing either way and everytime I ask, the subject gets changed quickly.

TEDDY LONG WILL NOW BE KNOWN AS "Dancin'" Teddy Long. Ya know, when Teddy first came out as a manager, I was really impressed. He seemed to be a breath of fresh air amongst some very stale talent and gimmicks. The trouble is, once you've heard him do one interview, you've heard every interview

that he's capable of doing. His turn from a law abiding referee to a heel manager was interesting and well done, but the character lacks something now. Making him "Dancin' Teddy Long" isn't the answer and unfortunately, I'm not sure what the cure would be.

SPEAKING OF MANAGERS, GARY HART IS in fact gone as we've been reporting. Forever, but Oliver Humperdink is still around though no one knows why. He doesn't sell a single ticket and he does nothing at ringside other than smoke a cigar. I suppose that a fanatical non-smoker might be offended by him but other than that select group, if the Big Kahuna disappeared tomorrow, I doubt if most people would notice.

STING WAS THE VICTIM OF MUTA'S MIST on this past week's Power Hour. He was in a six man tag match with Flair and Arn against Muta, Sawyer and Fragon Master. He had just gotten the hot tag and was cleaninghouse when they went to the angle. He put Master in the scorpion and Muta blew the mist in his face. This, I think, is leading up to him getting beat up on a regular basis in order to set something up for the PPV in February.

WOMAN IS STILL INTERRUPTING RIC FLAIR whenever he does an interview. Same old story: she wants to own the horsemen starting with Flair. The latest has her telling Flair that she has something that will allow him to win on February 6th. Each time she comes out, she slights Sting to get to Flair.

ARN ANDERSON HAS HAD A COUPLE OF really good matches in recent weeks in defense of the TV title. The first was against Eddie Gilbert. Both men did heel moves throughout and Eddie held the upper hand through most of the match. The end came with Eddie mounting the top ropes and coming off. Arn caught him in mid air and turned it into a spine buster for the pin.

THE SECOND MATCH WAS AGAINST THE SAMOAN Savage on the World Wide show. Arn caught him in a DDT (aren't Samoans supposed to have rock hard heads?) and went for the pin. Buzz Sawyer, Dragon Master and Muta ran in for a DQ on the Savage, but Flair and Sting came to Arn's rescue.

CHRIS CRUISE CONTINUES TO LEARN the announcing game, but there are some things he needs to learn fast. In recent weeks he has expressed surprise that challengers are giving reigning champions such a tough time in the ring. One thing that an announcer has to do is to build up the challenger so that when the champion ends up winning, it's much more impressive. When a title change is happening, almost the opposite is true. I hope that someone is pointing these little things out to him so he can improve. His play by play is coming along nicely.

NOW THE BIG RUMOR IS THAT IF FLAIR loses his title to Luger, it won't be until the 4/1 Clash of Champions that goes up opposite Wrestlemania. The theory is supposedly that they want more people watching than would a Pay Per View show. I'm also told that changing a title on that day would have more impact in the wrestling business than "another Hogan title defense, even if it is against Ultimate Warrior."

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WE REPORTED SOME TIME AGO THAT Missy Hyatt would be co hosting the Main Event show with Jim Ross and then she never appeared. I don't know what went wrong the first time, but I heard rumors from the NWA wanting her to lose her southern accent to the NWA wanting to wait and see what happened with Eddie, Paul E and the CWF deal. At any rate, she's scheduled to be on the show once again starting within the next thirty days.

DOOM IS NO LONGER BEING MANAGED by Woman. The scenario is that she was upset when they lost all three matches at Starrcade. They will take on the Steiners on the coming Clash in a mask vs title match. Most people are expecting Doom to lose their masks here, and no one, including myself is expecting a title change. But I do expect something to happen to prevent Doom's masks from coming off. I'm not sure if this is a no DQ match or not but if it isn't, I look for the Steiners to lose by DQ, thereby allowing everyone to keep what they had when they entered the match.

SEVERAL OF THE WRESTLERS SIGNED to be spokesmen of sorts for Roo shoes. They've shot several TV commercials with the wrestlers taking part in the promoting of Roos. So far, Sting (surfing in a wading pool), Rick Steiner (contemplating watering a fire hydrant), Lex Luger (looking ominous), the Road Warriors (beating up the car of a sheet editor who has just revealed their real names for the 421st time), and Flair (haven't seen his commercial yet) have had their ads aired extensively on TBS and the syndicated shows. The Steiner commercial is even running in the afternoon on weekdays during kids' programming on TBS (Kelly has it on while I type - honest). In addition to the TV, magazines for retailers are carrying full page ads with all the guys carrying briefcases and wearing the Roo shoes. The ad says something to the effect that these guys are going to go to work for you (the retailer). If you have a retail outlet in your area that carries Roos, you might check with them on the possibility of getting lifesize cardboard cutouts of the wrestlers once the store is done with them.

THERE WAS AN INTERESTING EIGHT MAN tag match on TBS this weekend featuring The Freebirds and Midnight Express vs the Dudes and R&R Express. The heels won the match when Bobby Eaton came off the top ropes while the ref was busy, on Shane Douglas who was attempting to pin Stan Lane. The match was pretty good, but I don't like eight man tags for a couple of reasons...first, it's hard to follow all of the action. Everyone in the match wants to shine, but the individual performances get lost in the melee. Second, with two guys in the ring, that leaves six on the ring apron plus the camera man who is there as well and that makes it extremely hard for ringsiders to see the match. Last week, World Wide had a seven man tag with Animal and the Steiners (haek no showed) vs Doom & Skyscrapers and it was just as bad (work was okay, but hard for paying fans to see). The baby team won that one by DQ. If they insist on running eight mans, then maybe they should consider making them eight man elimination matches, or making the wrestlers no in the ring stand on the arena floor. Fans seem to enjoy them so there must be a better way and still be fair to those who pay to see the match.

INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

International Championship Wrestling
by Mike Viola

NEW TAG TEAM CHAMPS, NEW BABYFACES, and new gimmicks that not even Jon could have thought up have been introduced, so the ICW is making a bid to become a major independent.

THE TAG TEAM BELTS HAVE CHANGED hands twice in the past month. Babyfaces Eric Sbraccia and Phil Apollo, better known as the Dynamic Duo, defeated the Undertakers in a put up or shut up match to win the belts. The following week though, Sbraccia was attacked by heels Doug Gilbert and Dennis Condrey. With Sbraccia unable to defend his portion of the title, Vic steamboat took his place in the match against Condrey and Gilbert. "Injured" Joe Savoldi, wearing a mask to protect his broken cheekbones accompanied the babyfaces to the ring. Eventually, Vic and Gilbert were fighting outside the ring and Apollo had Condrey in a Boston Crab. Savoldi jumps in the ring, whips out a cordless phone (can you guess who's under that mask?) and cracks Apollo over the head. Condrey covers Apollo for the pin and the belts. The masked man takes off the mask to reveal one Paul E. Dangerously.

WITH THE ADDITION OF PAUL E, CONDREY, AND Gilbert, the ICW appears to be serious this time about becoming a major independent. They have been able to produce a weekly TV show, add known talent to their roster, and put out an overall quality show. This is just speculation on my part, but having a roster consisting of former WWF stars, being situated on the east coast, and starting to improve as a promotion, maybe Vince McMahon should consider buying the ICW and use it as a farm system. The benefits? Well, when wrestlers get stale in the WWF, he wouldn't lose them to other rival promotions. He could send them down to the farm system and allow his influence to be felt in small local arena that the WWF does not reach. Drawbacks? It would not net him millions of dollars, something Vince's ego might now allow.

BOB ORTON WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE LEFT the ICW, but he has not left and is the number one contender to the heavyweight belt held by Tony Atlas. New faces arriving here are 350 pound T.T. Crunchski, Diamond Jim Brady and Jim Mulkey (more on him later). The real Joe Savoldi is still being mentioned but he has not been seen in over a month.

TWO GIMMICKS THAT JON DID NOT THINK of in last issue's top ten list have surfaced in the ICW. One is Jim Mulkey, the wrestling school dropout. Jim carries the famous Mulkey name to extremes as he has mistakenly applied a headlock to the referee, get demolished in his matches and wears glasses to the ring. The other gimmick is a fat guy known as Super-Duper Mario. This is after the video game character, complete with thick Italian accent. He hasn't wrestled yet, but in his interviews, he urges, "Alla da little babinos outa there, not a do-a da drugs. Dataway, you grow upa to be biga ana stronga likea me!" Some incentive.

< < DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH > >
> January 1990 <

OUR RUNNER UP NOMINATION THIS month might have won if we could figure out who to give it to. As you have read in the NWA report, Center Stage was closed for repairs when the NWA tried to run their TV taping there on 1/16. Since Center Stage is owned by Ted Turner, someone in his organization isn't communicating with others very well. A dumb screw up that deserves some recognition here in the Dipstick column

ANOTHER RUNNER UP IS DUSTY RHODES. I'm sick to death of this glob and his off color humor isn't making any points with me. From remarks on Saturday Night's Main Event, it's obvious he has little or no regard for women. After Mean Gene asked Dusty, "What about Bobby Heenan," Dusty replied, "well, what about Sapphire?" Mean Gene replied, "You've got a point," and Dusty said, "and a place to stick it." Sorry folks, but I can do without the gutter humor of the Tidy Bowl Man.

THIS MONTH'S WINNER IS THE CWA promotion in Memphis. They have lacked creativity and originality for some time. Combine that with the racial slurs in highly black Memphis, plus the copying of other successful angles, and you may be able to understand the state of the promotion. Once the hottest promotion in the country, they have stooped to using cheap heat in order to draw a crowd. Either its enraging fans to the point of staying away in droves, or it's working but the fans are coming out disguised as empty seats. The trouble is, if attendance DOES pick up, they may credit it to this type of promoting and keep it up. If it doesn't improve then they may go to more extreme angles and insults. This looks like a battle the wrestling fans aren't going to win.

< < CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH > >
> January 1990 <

VINCE MCMAHON AND THE WWF OFTEN takes a bad rap for ripping off fans with bad PPV events and house shows. But the past week, watching WWF wrestling has been like watching the NWA with cartoon characters. That's a compliment. Everyone busted their butts and that deserves as much recognition in a positive light as it does when they get lazy.

SINCE WE HAD NO PROBLEM IN GIVING the Dipstick to an entire promotion, we'll do the same here. This month's Class Act goes to the WWF.

IN PARTICULAR, THERE ARE SEVERAL WRESTLERS who deserve mentioning on their own for the work they did. Curt Hennig, Ted DiBiase, Bossman, and Randy Savage.

GIVEN THE HEAD START THE WWF HAS IN the promotional wars, if they keep producing shows like the Royal Rumble and Saturday Night's Main Event, the NWA is going to have plenty to worry about.

THE TOP TEN HEELS OF THE SIXTIES

BY DON G. SMITH

I was one of those kids in the sixties who always cheered for the heels. I still cheer for the heels today. But the magic of childhood and early adolescence make the heels of that era stand out in my mind as legends of the game. I would like to pay a tribute to the great villains of yesterday by remembering the men I consider to be the top heels of the sixties.

1. Killer Kowalski

While Kowalski would have been one of the most fearful villains of the decade anyway, a ring accident served to entrench him as the king of them all. After his boot severed part of the popular Yukon Erik's ear, the killer visited his injured foe in the hospital. There, in front of the press, he began laughing at the sight of Erik's bandaged head and at the absurdity of it all. Next day the headlines carried the shocking report of the evil wrestler who first cut off his foe's ear and then went to the hospital to jeer at him. Actually, Kowalski was and is a very spiritually oriented vegetarian. Few wrestlers of his time or since can boast of a comparable work rate.

2. Fritz von Erich

At a time when the Nazi persona still struck terror and revulsion into the hearts of wrestling fans everywhere, nobody was a more effective Nazi than Fritz. Magazines of the time ran stories about how the Reich sent him to wrestle in America after he body slammed his military superior, a giant SS officer! Anyway, the native Texan was so obnoxious in interviews that one television announcer blurted out "What makes you so damn arrogant?" This occurred at a time when the "D" word was not uttered on the small screen. In promotional spots, Fritz would repeat the date of the upcoming card so often that viewers probably dreamed about it. He would also guarantee a victory. Except for when he was scheduled against Lou Thesz, the guarantee was sound. Think what you will about Fritz today; in the sixties the "master of the iron claw" was about the most effective heel in all of pro wrestling.

3. The Sheik

What the Sheik lacked in size he made up for in foreign objects. Among his favorite holds were the camel clutch, the razor blade, and the bottle opener. Most fans were totally repulsed by the drooling, spaced out "Arab," who with Abdullah the Butcher kept the rings flowing with rivers of blood. In an interview the Sheik stated that he didn't perform any physical activity to stay in condition—he merely thought about working out and stayed in shape through the power of his own mind. Perhaps the Sheik should be hired today by the WWF since many of those wrestlers have apparently adopted his training technique without his success.

4. Dick the Bruiser

Along with his Milwaukee clone "The Crusher," Dick the Bruiser was pro wrestling's blue collar psycho. Taking the persona of a neanderthal throw-back, Dick became known as "the world's most dangerous wrestler." As a brawler, Dick was in a league by himself. Tables, chairs, chains, and anything else could and did become part of his arsenal. After a victory or while roaming the ring area during a match, he would frequently grab a fan's beer and pour it over his own head. His bloodbath feuds with Cowboy Bob Ellis were legendary, as was his highly publicized confrontation with Alex Karras. He later teamed up with fan favorite Wilbur Snyder and made the turn into one of wrestling's top drawing faces.

5. Fred Blassie

Always one of the most entertaining interviews, Blassie rose to infamy on the basis of his bloody brawls and his references to opponents

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as "pencil neck geeks". He once caused a great outpouring of fan anger by stating in a magazine interview that his major goal in life was to kill an opponent in the ring.

6. "Crusher Lisowski"

"Crusher looked like and wrestled like Dick the Bruiser. He was, however, the least primitive of the two. The cigar chomping brawler liked to boast in interviews about how he was going to "kill the bum" scheduled as his next opponent. Usually he would! He once said in an interview that he wanted to open his own brewery and market. "Crusher's Jingling Beer." The Busch people must have shuddered.

7. The Destroyer

In a decade that boasted a number of top-notch masked heels, the Destroyer was the most dastardly of them all. Though he did lose a few matches (e.g. he once did a stretcher job for Fred Blassie), he managed to remain masked throughout a decade in which losing and unmasking went together. His success rested to a large degree upon his uncanny ability to project ferocity from behind the mask through the use of his eyes, teeth, and lips. He was also a very well conditioned athlete who drew extremely well at the box office.

8. Maurice "Mad Dog" Vachon

The snarling, biting Vachon was a mad dog indeed. Few wrestlers could actually frighten fans with his presence as Vachon could. Greatly respected by the wrestling community itself, Vachon terrorized fans throughout the sixties, primarily as a staple of the AWA.

9. Big Bill Miller

Standing an imposing 6' 8", Bill Miller was successful both in single matches and in tag team action as one half of the Miller Brothers. Big Bill claimed disdain for wrestling gimmicks, even though he wrestled behind a mask for a period of time as Mr. M. His finishing hold was as impressive over the shoulder back breaker.

10. Buddy Rogers

On the strength of his monumental ego, the "Nature Boy" became one of the most hated wrestlers of the sixties. He would be rated higher here except for the fact that he wrestled only for a few years of that decade. Rogers was a well conditioned wrestler whose favorite hold was the figure four leg lock. He was at his best doing color commentary, at which time he would brag endlessly about his own abilities while minimizing those of the wrestlers in the ring. Of course, one of the competitors would usually land outside the ring, at which point Rogers would viciously attack the fallen man in order to prove his point. If the man on the floor was Cowboy Ellis or someone of that ilk, then Rogers would lose his shirt, receive a beating, and the stage was set for the next big card.

Of course there were many other great heels of the sixties, and I have probably shorted several of them by not including them here. Johnny Valentine comes to mind, but he was an effective baby face as often as he was an effective heel. Others come to mind such as Bulldog Brower, Rip Hawk, Tarzan Tyler, Bob Orton, Waldo Von Erich, and Gorilla Monsoon. I would mention Gene Kiniski except that he almost had too much class to be hated completely.

Anyway, I enjoyed writing this small tribute and hope that it brought back some memories of the days when pro wrestling was much more believably produced and heels were heels.

:-: WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO :-:

Once again, we take a look at the personalities of wrestlers outside the squared circle. The descriptions you'll read here are based on one fan's experiences and your experience could be quite different. If you would like to contribute to this column, you're more than welcome. We will withhold your name on request.

These observations were made after matches in Dallas (name withheld) from a few months ago...

KERRY VON ERICH...

Very quiet until you start talking about his high school sports days. Then you can't shut him up. He was willing to sign autographs, especially for kids.

KEVIN VON ERICH...

It's hard to believe these two are brothers. Kevin is pretty much opposite. He's suspicious of everyone who approaches. Very paranoid of the sheets.

CACTUS JACK FOLEY...

You might not know it from looking at this guy, but he's really intelligent. He can discuss a variety of subjects with fluency. He's quite willing to talk shop providing you can prove you know the business.

SKANDAR AKBAR...

Don't even bother approaching this guy. If he ever gets out of the wrestling business, he can make a career out of being a professional jerk.

PERCY PRINGLE...

Really nice guy who will talk shop. Somewhat modest, at least in comparison with others in the wrestling business.

MICHAEL HAYES...
This guy will talk, providing you meet two requirements. One: you must be female. Two: You must be good looking. All others need not bother.

BRICKHOUSE BROWN...

As a heel, he's almost afraid of fans. It takes quite a bit to open him up. Turns out that he's paranoid that some fan might try to hurt him since he's a heel.

ERIC EMBRY...

His ego is just as big as you would expect it to be. He loves to hear nice things about himself. He also likes to imbibe the fermented fruits and vegetables. The more he imbibes, the easier it is to talk to him.

TERRY GORDY...

Split personality. If he doesn't want to talk, don't press him. If you do, make sure your comprehensive health plan is paid up.

SAMOAN SWAT TEAM...

Run, do not walk, away from these guys. They are bad news with a capital Nasty.

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* * MEMPHIS * *

THE LIVE MEMPHIS SHOW CONTINUES on Saturday mornings here with the opening montage still featuring the CWA logo. Every week, though, Dave Brown reminds us that we are watching the USWA.

THE 1/20 SHOW STARTED OFF WITH Jerry Lawler not in the studio, but in the parking lot. He explained that he was expecting an important phone call (he now carries a cellular phone) and the reception was better in the studio. We figure they were going to do an angle from all this, but save one more appearance on the show, as far as we know, he's still standing out there waiting on the call.

MOST OF THE SHOW IS NOW TAKEN UP with videos from Dallas. They review feuds that are active down there that they are planning on running here in Memphis.

DAVE BROWN PROMISED TO SHOW A VIDEO from Texas where newcomer Junkyard Dog pins Jerry Lawler, but apparently, were told, the video has come up missing. Cut to Lawler in the parking lot where he tells us that HE has the video and there's no way it's ever going to be shown on TV. And folks, that's the last we heard from Jerry on this show.

INSTEAD OF HAVING THE USUAL Monday night on 1/22, they wrestled in conjunction with a Monster Truck show (you know, Bigfoot et al) on Saturday the 20th and Sunday the 21st. Saturday's line up featured Steve Austin vs Brian Lee; Robert Fuller vs Dutch Mantell; DWB vs Chris Champion and Junkyard Dog vs Soul Taker. Sunday's line up included Matt Borne vs PY Chu Hi; Dustin Rhodes vs Gary Young; Fuller & Lee vs Mantell & Dundee; Jeff Jarrett vs Billy Joe Travis; and Lawle vs JYD. Monday night's card was in Jackson, TN instead.

BILL DUNDEE IS THE NEW CWA Champion, though we have no idea when where or how. The promotion didn't make a big deal out of it either...he just came out with the belt.

GARY YOUNG AND DUSTIN RHODES have brought their feud from Texas here to Tennessee. They showed a clip of a match where there was a glove with a chain on it being used as a weapon. Dustin was bloodied up quite a bit and had to be saved by Jimmy Jack Funk. These two are scheduled for the 1/29 Memphis card in a bullrope match.

THE DALLAS INFLUENCE IS BEING FELT in more than one way. The 1/20 show had a group of heel cheering fans in the studio. Eddie Marlin hates that when that happens and has been known to refuse tickets to anyone who establishes themselves as a heel fan.

THE COPYING OF OTHER PROMOTIONS'S successful gimmicks continue. Chris Champion now comes to the ring with a snake in a green army duffel bag. After pinning an opponent, (you guessed it) he drapes the snake across them. How Original.

THE 1/27 SHOW ONCE AGAIN HAD LAWLER at the desk with Dave Brown (it'd be my guess that Lawler was in Dallas on 1/20 and had pre-recorded the parking lot bit). He was waiting on a call from Rodney Dangerfield (a bit of a shot at Paul E. Dangerously).

OKAY WOMEN, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! Robert Fuller and Brian Lee came out and announced the start of "Star Search '90" for a new valet for Robert Fuller. They explained that Sylvia had left Fuller (egads! the truth!) and was now a barmaid in Columbus Georgia (back to normal in the truth department). Fuller had a guitar with him on the interview

and he starts to sing one of those my-baby-left-me-singin'-the-blues songs and Bill Dundee came out pretending to cry along with him. He left without incident.

ROOSTER COGBURN, PERENNIAL JOBBER, beat Donnie Kelley on TV in 51 seconds. Huh? An angle? Sort of. Bradford TN had proclaimed 1/27 Rooster Cogburn day and he was to get a shot against Jerry Lawler that night in Bradford. He gave Lawler a map to get there and Lawler told him not to worry, he'd just drive Northwest out of Memphis till he saw toilet paper hanging out to dry. It's bad enough they steal gimmicks from other promotions, but now they're stealing lines as well (Jim Cornette said that same thing about Gainesville GA a couple weeks back).

DIRTY WHITE BOY AND BILL DUNDEE had a match on TV and Fuller and Lee did a run in for Dundee making fun of them earlier. Bill bladed in one of the most obvious blade jobs in history (You could almost read the word "Gilette") and didn't draw that much juice for his trouble.

CHRIS CHAMPION AND DIRTY WHITE BOY are challenging the record of Greg Valentine and Ron Garvin and Bruiser Brody and Abdullah the Butcher for most matches had against each other. They meet again in Memphis on 1/29 with special stipulations. If DWB wins, then Champion has to leave town. If Champion wins, then he leaves just the building, but he leaves with Dirty White Girl. Girl (as opposed to Woman, I guess) has been acting extremely bored during DWB's matches and this thing needs to come to a conclusion soon.

KING COBRA AND JERRY LAWLER haven't settled things yet. Cobra claims that Lawler is hiding behind the 30 day rule. They did an interview with both of them at the desk and they went nose to nose. Lawler is still hurling racial insults at Cobra and Cobra finally got fed up with it and slapped Lawler. Lawler acted like he wasn't going to retaliate as Cobra walked off and Lawler went back behind the desk. Jerry picked up a chair, not a folding chair, but a desk chair with little wheels, and launched it at Cobra. He scored a perfect hit on the back of Cobra's head. Later, during a Lawler squash, Cobra did a run in with a chair of his own. Still, the two were not signed to meet on the 1/29 card. Cobra was to wrestle Soul Taker with Lawler in ST's corner.

THE SOUTHERN ROCKERS (not sure who they are right now) are headed in as a babyface tag team. They did an interview telling fans they'd be bringing "Party Tour 90" to the area.

JERRY FINALLY GOT A HOLD OF RODNEY, but Jerry had to call him. As the show was going off the air, we heard Jerry laughing as Rodney provided him with new material for next week. Dumb end to the skit. If Lawler wanted to add to his heel persona, you'd think they would have run that the other way around.

World Wrestling Federation

THIS YEAR'S ROYAL RUMBLE HAD the potential of being one of the worst PPV shows in the history of cable TV. After the first two matches, I was ready to buy a thesaurus so I could come up with synonyms for Horrid. But just like with Clash of Champions IX, the last part of the card not only saved the show, but also made it a darn good one.

IT OPENED WITH THE BUSHWHACKERS pinning the Rougeaus. I don't know if this happened across the country, but our cable system had problems unscrambling this match. The repeat was also scrambled, so it may be nothing more than someone who likes me. I can't honestly grade the match, but something inside of me says I shouldn't complain.

NEXT UP WAS BRUTUS BEEFCAKE VS LANNY Poffo. This wasn't very good. The end came after a ref bump. Beefcake slapped the sleeper on Poffo and went for his scissors. He got quite a bunch of hair cut off before Hennig ran in for the save. The match was ruled a DDQ. My question is, how will they explain that Lanny suddenly has hair during the upcoming Saturday Night's Main Event? **GRADE: D.**

FOR THE 4562ND TIME, RON GARVIN and Greg Valentine wrestled, this time in a "submission match." Normal people call this an "I Quit" match. Anyway, it went close to twenty minutes and wasn't all that bad (did I really say that!?!?). Garvin was wearing a leg brace to offset Valentine's and it came into to play when Valentine put the figure four leg lock on him. The hold didn't phase Garvin and he sat up while in the hold and made faces at Greg (that was pretty funny). Jimmy Hart managed to steal Garvin's shinguard and Greg got the figure four on again. This time Garvin was in pain, but he managed to reverse it and got out. The end finally came with Garvin taking Greg's shin guard off and putting him in the scorpion (hey! That's Terry Taylor's move now! Two wrestlers can't use the same move!). Valentine submitted and hopefully this feud is over. They certainly won't be able to improve on this effort. **GRADE: B-.**

BROTHER LOVE HAD SHERRI AND SAPHIRE as guests in the ring. Sapphire just stood there and took insult after insult. Brother Love kept asking a question, then pulling the mike (been taking lessons from Ed Whalen no doubt). She got the mike and read her tormentors the riot act before Savage and Rhodes did run ins. The end result was Dusty and Sapphire dancing (I think that's what they were doing) in the ring after tossing the bad guys out. Look for Savage to get the upper hand at a TV taping in the near future.

THE NEXT MATCH WAS A MILD SHOCK. It featured Hacksaw Jim Duggan and Bossman in a match that was actually decent. Decent all because of Bossman who sold like crazy and took some amazing bumps, especially one over the top rope. They did nothing to indicate that Bossman would be turning babyface in the near future though we know he did at the TV tapings a few weeks back. The end came, as a matter of fact, with Bossman being DQ'd for using the nightstick. Good action and I can't say enough good things about Bossman's work. **GRADE: C+.**

I'VE ALWAYS LIKED THE CONCEPT of the Royal Rumble. Last year's was anti-climactic after the Hogan Savage confrontation, but this year's was interesting throughout due to some excellent booking. Let's take a look at the order

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of entry and elimination (eliminated by is in parenthesis). We'll cover highlights afterwards...

DiBiase in, Koko B Ware in, KOKO OUT (DiBiase), Marty Janetty in, JANNETTY OUT (DiBiase), Jake Roberts in, Randy Savage in, Roddy Piper in, Warlord in, Bret Hart in, Bad News Brown in, JAKE OUT (Savage), Dusty Rhodes in, SAVAGE OUT (Dusty), Andre in, WARLORD OUT (Andre), Terry Taylor in, BAD NEWS & PIPER OUT (eliminated each other), Axe in, TAYLOR OUT (?), Haku in, Smash in, Akeem in, ANDRE OUT (Demolition), BRET OUT (?), Snuka in, AKEEM OUT (Snuka), Dino Bravo in, Earthquake Tenta in, DUSTY OUT (Tenta), AXE OUT (Tenta), Neidhart in, EARTHQUAKE OUT (everyone), Ultimate Warrior in, BRAVO OUT (Warrior), Rick Martel in, SMASH OUT (Haku), Tito Santana in, Honky Tonk Man in, NEIDHART OUT (Warrior, DiBiase, Martel), DIBIASE OUT (Warrior), Hulk Hogan in, SNUKA OUT (Hogan), HAKU OUT (Hogan), SANTANA OUT (Martel), Sean Michaels in, HTM OUT (Hogan), SEAN OUT (Warrior), MARTEL OUT (Warrior) - leaves Hogan & Warrior alone - Barbarian in, Rick Rude in, WARRIOR OUT (Hogan, Barbarian, Rude), Hercules in, Hennig in, BARBARIAN OUT (Hercules), HERCULES OUT (Rude), RUDE OUT (Hennig), HENNIG OUT (Hogan).

ELSEWHERE IN THE ISSUE YOU CAN find a "scorecard" that we've compiled for the Rumble.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RUMBLE INCLUDED Roddy Piper eliminating Bad New Brown, then Brown dragging Piper out of the ring and them brawling back to the dressing room....Ted DiBiase staying in through 18 entrances (about 36 minutes) and working his ever-loving butt off...this should re-establish DiBiase as one of the top ten workers in the business....Hogan and Ultimate Warrior got to face off after the rest of the ring had been cleared...they did a couple of shoulder tackles with neither man budging. Next came a double clothesline and both laid on the mat until Barbarian entered the ring. When Hogan helped to eliminate Warrior, Barbarian and Rude were trying to toss him over. Hogan came and clotheslined them and that carried Warrior out. Warrior didn't realize that Hogan had helped and he climbed back in the ring and clotheslined Rude and Barbarian before running back to the dressing room...When Hogan came in, he tossed out Snuka easily ...maybe something can become of that...Hennig did a perfectplex on Hogan at which Hogan "hulked out" and did his superman comeback.

WE DON'T YET HAVE THE PPV FIGURES nationally, however the six or seven companies that we check with regularly told me that orders are slightly up from last year. If I had to guess at a figure, I'd guess about a 3.2-3.5 on buyrate.

A PRESS CONFERENCE WAS TO HAVE been held this past week in Detroit to announce the live NBC special coming up on 2/23. The big announcement though was supposed to be that boxer Mike Tyson will be the special guest referee. We're being told the main event will be Hogan taking on Randy Savage

THIS PAST SATURDAY NIGHT GAVE US the first Saturday Night's Main Event of the nineties. The show opened with Jim Duggan vs Randy Savage. Savage came to the ring carried

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to the ring on a portable throne. Duggan began things by upsetting the phone and the match was on. Savage had his working shoes on and was tremendous. Duggan was trying hard and it's been a long time since he's been in a match this good. Randy spent a lot of time outside the ring and taking more bumps during this match than he has in the past month. They did a false finish with Duggan getting hit with the loaded purse, but still kicking out at the count of two (didn't fool me, but only because I saw this same spot live). The end came with Duggan attempting to suplex Randy into the ring. Sherri grabbed his feet and Randy fell on top. Just to make sure the audience at home knew Randy was cheating, Sherri held on to his feet while Savage got both feet on the bottom rope. A good match. **GRADE: B-.**

THE LAST TIME WE DID A READER COMPILED TOP TEN, CURT Hennig took the top spot. He defeated Ric Flair in our imaginary tournament and went on to win the thing. Tonight, he proved why he's developed such a following. He and Lanny Poffo wrestled Hogan and Warrior. Hennig was overselling everything Hogan and Dingbat did, but it was to put them over as supermen so we can understand that. He was in the match most of the way with Poffo being in for just short periods. Hennig perfectplexed Hogan, but stopped the ref's count himself to allow Poffo to take the pin. Poffo did his wimpy version of the moonsault and Hogan got his knees up to catch him in the stomach. Hennig came off the top ropes and was met with a foot to the face. Warrior came in and cleaned house, press slammed Lanny and Hogan finished him off with the dreaded leg drop. After the match, they did the angle with Hennig and Poffo attacking the babies from behind and Warrior accidentally clotheslining Hogan. They did not show the two shaking hands at the end. **GRADE: A-** just due to Hennig. Hogan was okay, Warrior was passable and Poffo is hopeless.

TIME FOR A BAD MATCH. THIS ONE was baaaaaad. Jake Robert beat Greg Valentine by DQ when Ted & Virgil interfered. Jake has basically one match he can work. Goes something like this: Attempt a DDT, opponent squirms out. Attempt a DDT, get backdropped. Attempt a knee lift, miss and go into the turn buckles. hit opponent with DDT, have other wrestler(s) interfere. Damien helped clear the ring, but this one was plain boring. **GRADE: D-.**

THE SHOW REALLY WENT DOWNHILL fast from this point on. We got to see the Great American Blob take on Rick Rude. I don't know what Rude did to deserve this, but I would get on my knees and beg forgiveness if I were him. They should make Dusty wear a bra. Any way, the ref made both Heenan and Sapphire leave after they started fighting with each other. Sapphire returned to the front row with a ticket. After a horrible match (Rude tried, but gave up when he saw it was hopeless), Rude went out and grabbed Sapphire's wrists and Dusty followed. They brawled back down the walkway for a double count out. **GRADE: D -.**

WITH DINO BRAVO AND RON GARVIN on next, I was prepared for the absolute worst. I almost got it too. Bravo is hard for me to watch and Garvin isn't much better so this may be a bit biased. The match was more to set up an angle than anything else and it came after the finish. Garvin came off the top rope with a cross body block but Bravo kept the momentum going and got the pin. After the match, Garvin attacked Bravo but Earthquake made the save and gave Garvin two sit down splashes (this guy may challenge Andre for worst wrestler and will certainly challenge

Hogan's leg bomb as the worst finisher in next year's awards). Garvin did a stretcher job. One note of interest...somehow, the Titan camera men found a perfect expression of concern and horror in the crowd.

GRADE: D -.

TITAN PERSONEL ARE TELLING US THAT Paul E Dangerously has been given a March 1st starting date. I think they're counting their chickens before they're hatched. Paul's contract with Turner runs through February 16 and he can't legally sign papers of any sort with Titan until that time. Friends of Paul have told us that they have made him an offer, but he hasn't accepted or declined yet. Personally, I'd expect him to decline the offer since things are going well with the ICW. Titan will always be there when he wants it.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN in the Hogan Savage match on 2/23, but with Titan hiring Mike Tyson as specila referee, you can be assured of one thing...whatever happens will be covered heavily by the media. No matter what happens, all the local sports reports will cover the thing, opening up a bigger potential audience for Wrestlemania VI.

THIS IS REMOTELY RELATED TO WRESTLING...The New Kids on the Block came to the Peoria Civic Center last week and sold out the 12,000 seat auditorium. The WWF and NWA combined haven't done that much business there in their past four trips in. Souvenir sales ALONE accounted for more than \$100,000 of the \$300,000 generated by the concert. Now here's the kicker. The weather had four to five inches of snow plus 20-30 MPH winds. It just goes to prove what Paul Boesch used to say...you can come up with all sorts of excuses for not selling tickets, but the bottom line is, if you don't sell tickets, you offered the people something they didn't want to see.

NEWS FROM THE LATEST SET OF TV TAPES IS SLOW COMING. About the only thing we've heard is that they did a lot more to put Bossman over as a babyface.

THE ANGLE THEY DECIDED TO USE TO MAKE Bossman a babyface is currently airing on Titan broadcasts. Jake steals the million dollar belt and puts it in Damien's bag. Ted orders Virgil to steal it back (second week) but Virgil is afraid of snakes, and keeps running away. The finally get Slick to have Bossman do it, but Bossman gets mad when money exchanges hands and goes after DiBiase. To put him over more as a baby, there will be matches over the next month or so with Ted vs Jake with Bossman as the special referee.

TITAN SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME LAST Summer trying to get the New Jersey Legislature to deregulate wrestling, thgus abolishing the state athletic commission (and therefore eliminating the taxes they pay on events that come from that state). Titan went as far as to expose the business, admitting that matches were predetermined. The bill to deregulate passed both houses, however the governor vetoed the bill so everything is back to the beginning. The Governor cited the loss of revenue for the state as his primary reason for the veto. He also made state ments that he thought that even an exhibition like wrestling should have ringside physicians available for the safety of the participants. Governor Keane, it seems, is somewhat of a wrestling fan, and is more knowledgeable about the sport than Titan gave him credit for.

AFTER SOME DISCUSSION THAT THE 4/13 Egg Done show in Tokyo might not come off as planned. Last minute negotiations have been completed and it turns out that Titan will work with both All-Japan and New-Japan to promote the show. Hogan WILL NOT work the 2/10 show that features three of the four recognized world champions (Flair, Zbyszko, and Vader).

ROYAL RUMBLE SCORECARD

We put together this scorecard for those of you who love statistics (th people that can tell you how many times Kurt Gibson has an RBI double in a Tuesday afternoon game on astroturf with a Democratic congress and a Dow Jones average that has risen with two outs). The first column, of course is the wrestler; the second is the order he entered the rumbl the third is the number he exited. Next is the wrestler(s) he was elim nated by, followed by the number of two minute periods he was in the rumble. Finally, the number of wrestlers ge threw out or assisted with (.3 means two other wrestlers helped and .5 would mean just one other wrestler helped).

WRESTLER	IN	OUT	elim by	PERIODS	ELIMINATIONS
Ted DiBiase	1	18	Warrior	23	2.3
Koko B. Ware	2	1	DiBiase	1	0
Marty Jannetty	3	2	DiBiase	1	0
Jake Roberts	4	3	Savage	5	0
Randy Savage	5	4	Dusty	5	1
Roddy Piper	6	7	Bad News	6	1
Warlord	7	5	Andre	4	0
Bret Hart	8	10	?????	8	0
Bad News Brown	9	6	Piper	3	1
Dusty Rhodes	10	12	Earthquake	9	1
Andre	11	9	Axe & Smash	5	1
Terry Taylor	12	8	?????	1	0
Axe	13	13	Earthquake	6	0.5
Haku	14	20	Hogan	11	1
Smash	15	16	Haku	7	0.5
Akeem	16	11	Snuka	2	0
Jimmy Snuka	17	19	Hogan	8	1
Dino Bravo	18	15	Warrior	3	0
Earthquake Tenta	19	14	EVERYONE	1	2
Jim Neidhart	20	17	DiBiase, Warrior		
			Martel	4	0
Ultimate Warrior	21	25	Hogan, Barbarian		
			Rude	7	4.3
Rick Martel	22	24	Warrior	4	1.3
Tito Santana	23	21	Martel	3	0
Honky Tonk Man	24	22	Hogan	2	0
Hulk Hogan	25	--	-----	5*	3.3
Sean Michaels	26	23	Warrior	1	0
Barbarian	27	26	Hercules	3*	0.3
Rick Rude	28	28	Hennig	2*	1.3
Hercules	29	27	Rude	2*	1
Curt Hennig	30	29	Hogan	1*	1

* these men were in the ring after the final man entered.

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RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

1/13 BOSTON (WWF) - courtesy of LUIS FORTUNA...Koko over Perez...Earthquake pinned Roma...Snuka over HTM...Savage pinned Duggan...Andre/Haku by COR over Demolition...Bret Hart over Iron Mike...Warrior pinned Bravo...NOTES: Attendance: 9500...two refs in Duggan-Savage match...Sherri knocked one out...ref in tag match called the count out, but must have forgot...he started to count a pinfall after the COR.

1/15 NEW YORK (WWF) - courtesy of JOE MANNION...Lanny Poffo pinned Jim Neidhart (C+)...Powers of Pain beat the Rockers (A)...Al Perez beat Paul Roma (C-)...Hennig beat Hogan by DQ (B+)...Akeem over Bret Hart (C-)...Greg Valentine/HTM drew Ron Garvin/Jimmy Snuka (D)...DiBiase over Jake via COR (C-)...NOTES: Hennig ran in and axed Neidhart Genius outside the ring then threw him in the ring for Poffo to cover...Fuji tripped Sean Michaels for the pin...Hogan got caught with brass knucks that Mr. Perfect had used earlier...Akeem replaced Bob Orton...Jake was counted out while fighting with Virgil outside the ring.

1/20 BALTIMORE (NWA) - courtesy of FRED NAARISMA...Royal Family beat Gilbert/Ross...Tommy Rich pinned Mike Rotundo...Sullivan beat Norman by COR...Rock and Roll pinned Midnights...Samoans beat Dudes...Sting defeated Muta...Arn Anderson downed Sawyer...Flair pinned Luger...Steiners over Doom...NOTES: Attendance: 4000...Rotundo replaced the \$20 man Kendall Windham who was detained elsewhere...Sullivan stole Norman's teddy bear which made Norman chase him...Sullivan jumped back in the ring to beat the count...Gibson raqueted Eaton for pin.

1/21 PHILADELPHIA (WWF) - courtesy of JOE MANNION...Earthquake squashed Mark Young...Greg Valentine over Ron Garvin...Andre/Haku by DQ over Demolition...Warrior pinned Bravo...Bret Hart beat Bad News by DQ...Savage pinned Duggan...NOTES: Attendance: 10,656

1/27 PHILADELPHIA (IND) - courtesy of CARL NITZ...Johnny Hotbody beat Tony Stetson...Rockin' Rebel by COR over Joey Maggs...Terry Gordy DCOR Bam Bam Bigelow...Larry Winters over DC Drake...JYD pinned Paul Jones...Nikita Koloff by DQ over Manny Fernandez...Larry Zbyszko pinned David Sammartino...NOTES: Attendance: 1000...Bigelow turned heel half way through match...Winters-Drake was a stretcher match that went throughout the building...it featured on of the guys taking a fall over a rail 20 feet off the ground...Bruno was in David's corner, Paul E Dangerously in Zbyszko's...Paul phoned David for Larry's win.

1/19 WEST PALM BEACH, FL (WWF)....Genius over Neidhart...Tugboat squashed Steve Lombardi...Hennig pinned Snuka...Roberts beat DiBiase...Rockers beat Powers of Pain by DQ...Piper and Rude were both DQ'd in a lumber-jack match...Next card is on 3/2 with Piper and Rude in a cage.

A MAGAZINE CALLED "SPECIAL REPORT" (November 1989-January 1990 issue) has a feature on Big John Studd. The article is done half serious, half kay fabe (the description of his match against Akeem is hilarious - "When the hapless Akeem pleads for mercy, Studd grabs his hair and pulls him back in. He makes the coup de grace look easy, hoisting his nearly quarter ton foe over his head - Akeem must be ten feet off the ground - and hurling him earthward.") The writer, Richard Blow must have fallen for every single lie Studd and the WWF wanted to dish out.

SUBSCRIBER ERIC CAIDIN PRODUCED a wrestling convention over the past weekend in Los Angeles which featured wrestling videos, memorabilia tables, a press conference plus live wrestling and music. Scheduled to appear were Chavo Guerrero and Superboy (a Mexican star who is getting quite a bit of attention and favorable reviews). No report on how things went, but if things did go well, look for this to run as a regular independent.

RECEIVED THIS READER REQUEST: Writer researching book on murdered independent wrestler Him Leon (Ricky Lawless) would like to contact people who knew him, worked with him, or saw him perform. Also interested in obtaining videotapes, pictures and programs/cards on which he appeared. Write: FERK, 1498-M REISTERSTOWN ROAD #243, BALTIMORE, MD 21208 or phone (212) 459-4283. Ferk is also looking for a copy of the Chicago Business article that featured Sam DeCero and Windy City Wrestling.

THE PHILADELPHIA SHOW LISTED IN our results section was promoted by Joel Goodhart of Rasslin' Radio fame and was reportedly one of the better shows Philly has seen in a while. Everyone worked hard and the show was highlighted by DC Drake going over the rail that was 20 feet off the ground.

BOXING PROMOTER LOU DUVA HAD SOME unkind things to say about George Foreman's latest comeback victory over Jerry Cooney a couple of weeks back. Duva, who accused Forman of being "the greatest con man in sports today," said "There's only one guy he should fight next. His name is Hulk Hogan." Sure. Maybe at Wrestlemania VI...or Summerscam 90.

CONTINENTAL OWNER DAVID WOOD HAS procrastinated himself right out of a good deal. The deal with Eddie Gilbert and Paul E. Dangerously has fallen though due to him dragging his feet. Gilbert and Dangerously had other things brewing and didn't have time for Woods to hem and haw about what he was going to do with the rights to the Continental promotion/ tapes, etc. Woods, you'll remember, also had a chance for the CWF to go on national cable but blew the deal because he wouldn't supply the tapes in a timely fashion.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO SUPPLY us with a column on a regular basis. I have no guidelines for this yet, I'm open to suggestions. I want it to be a regular feature and it can be on any subject you like. You can vary the column from time to time (like Ed Garea's Phantom of the Ring). Nobody's leaving our staff, we just want to inject some new blood into the Forum. Send me your ideas or sample columns and we'll see if we can work something out.

QUITE A FEW READERS HAVE ASKED ME TO comment on the recent rash of Bulletin Wars. Actually, what I think they want me to do is to fire off a few salvos of my own. Sorry. I refuse to participate. If I have something negative to say to a newsletter editor, I will say it in a letter to their bulletin. Not here in the Forum.

NEXT ISSUE WE'RE GEARING UP FOR OUR 4TH Anniversary. As of February 15, we will have been publishing this bulletin for four years! We'll take a quick look back at the past four years, plus have Ed Garea's Phantom of the Ring returning. I also want to do a full page of reader requests so if you have something you'd like to buy, sell or trade, send it along on a 3 x 5 card and we'll run it for you in the special section.

See ya in two weeks!

WRESTLING FORUM V512
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